

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LOME 00523 062138Z

67

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-10 SSC-01 CPR-01 /074 W

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R 061710Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY LOME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8911

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY BANGUI

C O N F I D E N T I A L LOME 0523

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TO, PGOV, PINT

SUBJECT: CABINET CHANGES

REF: LOME 163 JAN 21, 1974

1. SUMMARY. LONG-RUMORED CABINET RESHUFFLE WAS ANNOUNCED BY TOGOLESE TV, RADIO AND PRESS MARCH 5 AND 6. UPSHOT IS TWO MINISTERS OUT (TEVI-BENISSAN OF COMMERCE AND FOFANA OF RURAL ECONOMY), THREE NEW FACES IN (KORTHO TO RURAL EQUIPMENT, KWAОВI BENYI JOHNSON TO INFORMATION, AYEVA TO COMMERCE), TWO SHIFTS (EKLO TO INTERIOR, BAGNAH TO RURAL DEVELOPMENT). SIGNIFICANCE: (A) MORE WEIGHT TO NORTHERNERS VS SOUTHERNERS IN GOVERNMENT -- NEW RATIO IS 8 TO 6, VICE 7 TO 6.

(B) TWO-KNOWN RADICALS NOW CONTROL POLICE, PRISONS,

LOCAL ADMINISTRATION, ALL MEDIA AND ALL COMMUNICATIONS,

(C) ONE MODERATE, TEVI-BENISSAN, DROPPED, BUT, DESPITE RUMORS

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PAGE 02 LOME 00523 062138Z

SOME WOULD GO, REST OF MODERATES REMAIN IN PLACE.

2. TOGOLESE RADIO AND TELEVISION LAST NIGHT, TOGO-PRESSE TODAY (MARCH 6) ANNOUNCED FIRST CABINET RESHUFFLE SINCE JAN 21, 1974 (REFTEL). BY PRESIDENTIAL DECREE SIGNED MARCH 5, GOVERNMENT OF TOGO IS ALTERED AS FOLLOWS (NC AFTER NAME MEANS NO CHANGE): PRES. OF REPUBLIC, MIN NATIONAL DEFENSE: GENERAL GNASSINGBE EYADEMA (NC). MIN PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS: COLONEL MENVEYINOYU DJAFALO (NC). MIN FOREIGN AFFAIRS: AYI HOUENOU HUNLEDE (NC). MIN PUBLIC WORKS AND MINES (1): AYITE GACHIN MIVEDOR (NC). MIN NATIONAL EDUCATION: YAYA MALOU (NC). KEEPER OF SEALS, MIN JUSTICE, PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND LABOR: NANAMALE GBEBENI (NC). MIN YOUTH, SPORTS, CULTURE AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH: KODJO AGBENOWOSSI KOFFI (NC). MIN FINANCE AND ECONOMY: EDEM KODJO (NC). MIN PLAN: KOUDJOLOU DOGO (NC). MIN RURAL DEVELOPMENT (1): OGAMO BAGNAH. MIN RURAL EQUIPMENT (1): SAMON KORTHO. MIN INFORMATION, PRESS, RADIO, TELEVISION, POSTS AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS (1): KWAОВI BENYI JOHNSON. MIN COMMERCE, INDUSTRY AND TRANSPORT (1): ZARIFOU AYEVA. ABOVE LISTED IN PRECEDENCE ORDER.

3.. (1) IN ABOVE LIST INDICATES PORTFOLIO CHANGES:

A. MIVEDOR'S POWERFUL, IMPORTANT MINISTRY LOSES TWO LARGE SEGMENTS BY TRANSFER OF TRANSPORT TO COMMERCE, AND POSTS AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS TO INFORMATION.

B. RURAL ECONOMY, WHOSE FORMER HEAD B. DEZI FOFANA WAS DROPPED FROM GOT, IS SPLIT IN TWO: RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND RURAL EQUIPMENT.

C. ALL MEDIA AND ALL COMMUNICATIONS ARE NOW GROUPED IN ONE MINISTRY.

D. TRANSPORT JOINS COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY IN ONE MINISTRY.

4. PERSONNEL SHIFTS SEEM TO HAVE BEEN MADE FOR A MIXTURE OF CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 LOME 00523 062138Z

REASONS:

A. TEVI-BENISSAN, WHO ON FEBRUARY 28 SIGNED ACP-EEC CONVENTION IN LOME TO THUNDEROUS OVATION, PROBABLY APOGEE OF HIS CAREER TO DATE, IS DUMPED FIVE DAYS LATER. BUT ON MARCH 4, TOGO-PRESSE ANNOUNCED THAT ONE T. BALAKINEBAWI BAKA, UNDISTINGUISHED ATTACHE DE CABINET IN TEVI-BENISSAN'S MINISTRY WAS "PLACED AT DISPOSITION OF MINISTRY OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION", EQUIVALENT TO BEING RELIEVED OF JOB AND TOSSED INTO PERSONNEL

POOL FOR REASSIGNMENT. IT CANNOT HAVE BEEN UNKNOWN TO TEVI-BENISSA THAT BAKA IS MATERNAL UNCLE OF GNASSINGBE EYADEMA. IN ANY CASE, FIRING OF UNCLE SEEMS TO HAVE LED DIRECTLY TO FIRING OF COMPETENT, INTELLIGENT AND MODERATE MINISTERJM

B. TEVI-BENISSAN IS REPLACED, SURPRISINGLY, BY MAN WITH NO GOVERNMENT EXPERIENCE: AYEVA, 32 YEARS OLD, NOT WELL KNOWN, UNTIL YESTERDAY WAS BRANCH MANAGER (FOR TSEVIE, KPALIME AND ATAKPAME) FOR SOCIETE GENERALE DU GOLFE DE GUINEE (LARGEST FRENCH COMMERCIAL HOUSE HERE). ALSO BROTHER OF MIN MIVEDOR'S WIFE AND SON OF FIRST PRESIDENT OF NOW DEFUNCT NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, DERMAN AYEVA. HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE.

C. KORTHO, NORTHERNER, HAS RISE THROUGH RANKS: WAS ONCE ASST. CHEF DE CIRCONSCRIPTION (CHEF CIR) OF LOME, THEN CHEF CIR OF TSEVIE, THEN CHEF CIR OF LOME UNTIL NOW. ALSO MEMBER OF RPT'S POLITICAL BUREAU.

D. JOHNSON, HERETOFORE DIR LEN OF TOGO-PRESSE, WHOSE EDITORIALS -- LARDED WITH FULSOME PRAISE OF PRESIDENT -- CHAMPION "AUTHENTICITY", ANTI-IMPERIALISM AND GENERALLY TAKE MILITANT RADICAL THIRD-WORLD LINE, IS REWARDED WITH EXPANDED MINISTRY WHICH NOW WILL CONTROL ALL MEANS OF COMMUNICATIONS, PUBLIC AND PRIVATE. THIS IS BAD NEWS FOR THOSE WHO DO NOT SUBSCRIBE TO "MIRACLE OF SAKAKAWA" AND REST OF EYADEMA MYTHOLOGY. CURIOUSLY, HOWEVER, SOME SAY JOHNSON IS CRITICAL OF EYADEMA IN PRIVATE, TO POINT OF RIDICULING LATTER'S CULT OF PERSONALITY.

E. EKLO, CZECHOSLOVAKIAN-TRAINED LEFTIST, LEAVES MIN INFORMATION IN CONGENIAL HANDS (D ABOVE) AND TAKES OVER INTERIOR WITH POLICE (INCLUDING SURETE NATIONALE), PRISONS AND ALL CHEF CIRS AND THEIR STAFFS. THIS, TOO, IS BAD NEWS.
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PAGE 04 LOME 00523 062138Z

5. TRIBAL MIX OF GOT TILTS SLIGHTLY MORE TO NORTH. OLD LINE-UP WAS 7 NORTHERNERS TO 6 SOUTHERNERS, NEW LINE-UP IS 8 TO 6.

6. CONCLUSION: TOGOLESE POLITICS IS BYZANTINE AMALGAM OF PERSONAL POWER PLAYS, FAMILY CONNECTIONS AND TRIBAL BLOCS, WITH IDEOLOGICAL CONVICTIONS PLAYING MINOR -- BUT FOR US PERHAPS CRUCIAL -- PART. MODERATE FACTION IN CABINET AT LEAST INCLUDES DJAFALO, HUNLEDE, KODJO, AND PERHAPS GBEGBENI, DOGO, MALOU AND KOFFI. CLEARLY IDENTIFIABLE RADICAL FACTION IS EKLO, JOHNSON. MIVEDOR, REPORTED IN YEARS PAS AS "INTELLECTUAL MARXIST WHO REALIZES MARXIST THEORIES CANNOT BE PUT INTO PRACTICE IN TOGO" NOWADAYS SHOWS FEW SIGNS OF IDEOLOGICAL LEANINGS BUT WORKS HARD AT BEING EFFECTIVE TECHNOCRAT. TOO

SOON TO CATEGORIZE KORTHO AND AYEVA. EYADEMA, "NATIONAL HELMS-MAN" OF "THE NEW DEAL" SEEMS TO CARRY LITTLE IDEOLOGICAL BAGGAGE AND TO BE WILLING TO TAKE WHAT HE CAN GET FROM EAST OR WEST, BUT WITH STEADY INCREASE OF CONTACTS WITH ASIAN COMMUNIST STATES. LACKING MUCH INTELLECTUAL POWER, HE APPARENTLY IS MOTIVATED BY EXPEDIENCY, OPPORTUNITIES AND DRIVE FOR MORE PERSONAL POWER.
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